

This time of year is about family, caring and giving. It's a time to pause and appreciate the abundance and goodness of what we have as Americans in a world where many go to bed each night hungry in fear. As Soldiers, Army Civilians and Contractors serving in a time of war, we celebrate this holiday season with traditional observances and decorations as a gesture of good will, hope for greater peace and prosperity, and encouragement for the almost 900 INSCOM and over 130,000 US military personnel deployed away from their families this Holiday Season. They're counting on us for continued wartime support and to carry on the traditions of the season. We honor our great Nation and comrades-in-arms by rededicating ourselves to the core values, moral, and positive outlook that make America and its Army a beacon of light to less fortunate people worldwide.

Because so many Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen, Marines and Coastguardsmen remain deployed away from home this year, I encourage each of you to reach deep and do what you can to say "thanks" and show support. Each of you does that daily through your dedication to the military mission, but there are other programs available I'd ask you to consider, such as: Operation Hero Miles -- helps troops travel home during R&R periods; Operation USA Care Package -- sends our Soldiers gifts from home; Gifts from the Homefront -- gives our folks AAFES gift certificates that can be used in PXs and BXs; and many others. INSCOM is also sponsoring an initiative to forward knapsacks full of school supplies to disadvantaged Iraqi school children through deployed INSCOM Soldiers – this helps Iraq build for the future and enhances Soldier-Iraqi relations which assist with force protection. Contact your local public affairs representatives (or INSCOM PAO) for details on any or all of these.

**Thanks** for all you do for our Army and Nation - it's a privilege to serve with INSCOM professionals around the globe. You're making America safer and the world a better place to live. Enjoy this 2004 Holiday Season. Be safe – don't drink and drive – wear seatbelts – take care of each other. We need every one of you for continued success in 2005!!

Jeff Kimmons  
MG, USA  
Commanding